



Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6829th meeting

Tuesday, 11 September 2012, 10 a.m.
New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Wittig	(Germany)
<i>Members:</i>	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Tian Lin
	Colombia	Mr. Alzate
	France	Mr. Briens
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri
	Morocco	Mr. Bouchaara
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zhukov
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Mr. DeLaurentis

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

Ninth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated
Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (S/2012/679)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

12-50357 (E)



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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Expression of thanks to the outgoing President

The President: At the outset, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Ambassador Gérard Araud, Permanent Representative of France, and his team for their services to the presidency of the Security Council for the month of August 2012. I am sure that I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Araud, his Deputy Permanent Representative, Martin Briens, and his delegation for the great skill and leadership with which they conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

Ninth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (S/2012/679)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Sierra Leone to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Jens Toyberg-Frandzen, Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone, to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Guillermo Rishchynski, chairperson of the Sierra Leone country-specific configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and Permanent Representative of Canada, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2012/679, which contains the ninth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone.

I now give the floor to Mr. Toyberg-Frandzen.

Mr. Toyberg-Frandzen: I would like to thank you, Sir, for the opportunity to provide a briefing on

the latest developments in Sierra Leone, pursuant to the ninth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) (S/2012/679), which has been submitted for the Council's consideration.

As detailed in the report, Sierra Leone continues to make steady progress in consolidating its achievements of the past decade. As Council members are aware, the joint Government and Peacebuilding Commission progress report on the Agenda for Change has been issued. It highlights the country's success in the implementation of the Government's priorities, in particular in the areas of infrastructure development, the provision of health services, and the energy and agriculture sectors. Planning for a successor development strategy, known as the Agenda for Prosperity, is under way. At the same time, the challenges of unemployment, especially among the youth, high living costs and related economic difficulties still persist, requiring a more long-term approach and sustained investment.

With regard to political developments, the main focus during the past six months has continued to be on the preparations for the 17 November presidential, parliamentary and local council elections. With technical assistance from the United Nations, major electoral arrangements, particularly the biometric voter registration exercise, were successfully concluded. Others, including the procurement of sensitive materials and communication links between regional tallying centres and the Commission's head offices in Freetown are ongoing. The nomination of candidates for the various elective positions will commence on 12 September, to be followed by a political campaign period from 17 October to 15 November.

Overall, preparations for the elections have proceeded satisfactorily, albeit with some challenges. In recognition of the complexity of conducting four elections — presidential, parliamentary, local council and mayoral — on the same date throughout the country, the National Electoral Commission has planned an extensive voter education programme using ward electoral and education committees that are comprised of local community representatives. The programme, which will also be supplemented by civil society organizations, is crucial to ensuring greater participation in the electoral process.

Since the completion of the report before the Council, on 6 September Parliament endorsed the revised nomination fees, which require presidential

candidates to pay 100 million leones, equivalent to \$23,250; parliamentary candidates to pay 10 million leones, equivalent to \$2,325; local council chairs to pay 5 million leones, equivalent to \$1,167; and local council councilors to pay 2 million leones. The previous rates for the 2002 and 2007 elections were 1 million leones for presidential candidates and 100,000 leones for other elective positions.

Almost all political parties, as well as civil society groups and the National Human Rights Commission, strongly criticized the proposals for the substantial increase in nomination fees. Women's groups in particular have pointed out that the increased fees will prevent women from participating in the elections. Throughout that process, and given the importance of the concerns raised, I have encouraged all the political parties and the National Electoral Commission to engage in dialogue and to use the democratic processes to resolve their differences.

Although the official campaign date is now set to begin on 17 October, the country is already in an election mode, with political parties, in particular the two major parties — the All People's Congress (APC) and the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) — engaged in extensive tours of the country to mobilize support. All those political activities are so far proceeding in an orderly manner and without incident. We welcome that positive trend and at the same time believe that continued attention should be given to the following four areas: promoting constructive dialogue and mutual trust among the political actors, in particular the two major political parties, the APC and the SLPP; ensuring confidence in the security sector, especially in the Sierra Leone Police; improving communication and dialogue between the National Electoral Commission and the political parties; and managing the role of the media.

With regard to political dialogue, I am pleased to report that as a manifestation of national ownership of the political process, and in response to the Security Council's call made in its last presidential statement on Sierra Leone (S/PRST/2012/11), all 10 registered political parties and other major stakeholders have signed the Declaration of 18 May 2012, committing themselves to free, fair and peaceful elections. The Declaration outlines the roles and responsibilities of all the key players, including the political parties, the media, security agencies, civil society and relevant national institutions, such as the National Electoral

Commission, in the upcoming elections. At present, UNIPSIL, in collaboration with the Political Parties Registration Commission and the National Commission for Democracy, is supporting the wider dissemination of the Declaration and monitoring its implementation. We continue to urge Sierra Leone's political parties and all major stakeholders to fully implement the commitments they have made under the Declaration.

Providing an enabling security environment at all stages of the electoral process and in the immediate post-election period will be equally indispensable. In that regard, the role of Sierra Leone's security agencies, in particular the Sierra Leone Police, remains critical. The training of the police and provision of the necessary logistics are well under way. However, recent incidents involving the use of force by the police in response to disturbances and other situations in various parts of the country have caused concern. We welcome the measures taken by the Government of Sierra Leone to investigate the circumstances that led to the use of lethal force, and stress the need to ensure respect for the rule of law and professional conduct by all during the electoral period and beyond. The establishment of the independent police complaints mechanism, as envisaged in the 2009 joint communiqué, would also contribute to that end.

Notwithstanding the authority vested in the National Electoral Commission by Sierra Leone's Constitution, the Commission and the political parties should continue to collaborate and address any concerns through open dialogue and in a constructive spirit. In that regard, efforts are under way, with the support of UNIPSIL, to strengthen the Political Parties Liaison Committee, comprised of representatives from all the political parties, the Commission, the Political Parties Registration Commission and other major actors, to serve as a forum for consultations and dialogue in order to resolve any matters regarding the electoral process.

The Sierra Leone media has an important contribution to make in ensuring free, fair and peaceful elections by providing objective and balanced information to the population. In that regard, the Independent Media Commission should play a more active role in working with the media to discourage divisive and inflammatory reporting that could lead to political tension and violence. Others, in particular the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists and the Guild of Editors, should also educate and guide their memberships on their roles and responsibilities. As to

the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC), I am pleased to report the recent adoption of guidelines, which were signed by all political parties and the SLBC. The guidelines provide for equitable airtime and access for all political parties to SLBC programmes.

We are pleased to note that, during the past six months and since the adoption of the Declaration of 18 May 2012, there have been no incidents of political violence in the country. The political parties and other stakeholders continue to uphold their commitment to credible and peaceful elections. However, as the elections draw closer, the intensity of political competition, in particular between the two major political parties — the APC and the SLPP — is expected to increase and tensions are expected to rise. However, with the prevailing spirit of dialogue and constructive engagement among Sierra Leone's political actors, we are confident that such tensions will be managed and violence prevented. In that regard, we are encouraged by the level of commitment and active engagement of all segments of Sierra Leone society in the electoral process. The non-State actors project implemented by UNIPSIL, with the assistance of the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, supports the efforts of key stakeholders, such as political parties, youth and women groups, tradition leaders and media, in promoting non-violence and political participation.

The successful conduct of elections will demonstrate the maturity of Sierra Leone's political leadership and institutions, as well as the consolidation of the democratic process in the country. Once the elections are concluded, the immediate focus should be on addressing any potential post-elections issues through dialogue and on ensuring a smooth transition of the elected Government. UNIPSIL stands ready to continue providing the necessary assistance in that respect, working with all stakeholders towards promoting national cohesion and reconciliation. However, consolidating and sustaining Sierra Leone's achievements would require continued progress in tackling the root causes, including those identified in the report of Sierra Leone's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. In that regard, with Sierra Leoneans taking the lead, the continued support of the international community, including the United Nations, will still be needed for some time to come. With that in mind, UNIPSIL and the United Nations country team will continue to assist the Government of Sierra Leone as long as it is deemed appropriate.

In concluding, I wish to take this opportunity to thank President Koroma and his Government for the continued cooperation and support for the work of the United Nations in Sierra Leone. I would also like to thank the Council for its sustained interest in Sierra Leone, as demonstrated in its recent mission to the country. Last but not least, I wish to acknowledge the very important role that the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission continues to play under the able chairmanship of Ambassador Gullerimo Rischynski in supporting peace consolidation efforts in the country, including the work of UNIPSIL.

The President: I thank Mr. Toyberg-Frandzen for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Rishchynski.

Mr. Rishchynski (*spoke in French*): I thank you, Sir, for this opportunity to express the opinions of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and its States members. In response to the Security Council's letter of 6 September, I intend to focus my remarks on the path forward for Sierra Leone and the anticipated contribution of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).

Sierra Leone faces an important moment in its history. The elections scheduled for November represent a crucial test and are widely viewed as a core benchmark for peace consolidation. The Peacebuilding Commission has monitored developments over the past year, including through regular contact with Freetown and by inviting the Chair of the National Electoral Commission to New York to brief on preparations. As Mr. Toyberg-Frandzen has just outlined in greater detail, the necessary logistical and financial arrangements are largely in place. There is good reason to expect technically sound and well-managed elections.

(*spoke in English*)

But the greatest challenge is political. All national stakeholders must fulfil their responsibility to create an environment conducive to successful elections. In each of the Commission's previous visits, interlocutors have raised concerns about persistent tensions between the major political parties, the role of unprofessional media willing to exacerbate political divides, and the risk that irresponsible actors will encourage young people to engage in politically-motivated violence. The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra

Leone (UNIPSIL) deserves great credit for addressing these challenges, particularly by following up on the 2009 joint communiqué, supporting non-State actors, and facilitating the Declaration agreed by political parties in May. These efforts have helped to establish a common understanding of the parameters of legitimate electoral competition, and it is now up to Sierra Leoneans to exercise their democratic rights and accept the resulting outcome.

With respect to the PBC, we intend to travel to Freetown in late October to take stock of the situation and engage with all relevant stakeholders, with a particular focus on the political parties, civil society and media. While there, we intend to stress the need to maintain open, inclusive dialogue and to abide by outstanding commitments made in the 2009 joint communiqué and the political Declaration of May 2012. We shall share the conclusions of that visit with the Security Council upon our return, including with respect to any areas requiring the attention of the international community.

While elections will remain the primary focus in the near future, Sierra Leone also stands poised to transition out of the immediate peacebuilding phase. This will involve a number of important processes. A successor to the Agenda for Change is under development by the Government, the United Nations presence is likely to change significantly, and Sierra Leone is piloting the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. Given this context, I would like to offer three general points that merit consideration during the post-elections period.

(spoke in French)

First, several of the outstanding peacebuilding challenges are long-term in nature. Addressing youth unemployment, fighting corruption and combating transnational crime will take sustained effort over a substantial period of time. Progress in these areas will also depend on developments outside Sierra Leone, both in terms of the global economy and with respect to the transnational threats plaguing West Africa. Even as Sierra Leone increasingly prioritizes socio-economic development, these issues must continue to be addressed. In that regard, it is promising that the Agenda for Prosperity will likely include pillars on employment, natural resources management and governance. It will also be especially important to ensure sustained support for those areas of UNIPSIL's current engagement that will require continuing attention in the context of a reconfigured United Nations presence in Sierra Leone.

(spoke in English)

Secondly, as the configuration's consideration of the second joint progress report on the Agenda for Change has demonstrated, Sierra Leone has developed a clear, coordinated and nationally owned approach. The United Nations has played a key role in helping to align international actors behind the single national strategy. It can and should continue to play that role, even as strategic priorities and institutional arrangements evolve.

Thirdly, transitions inevitably risk producing strategic and funding gaps. The Peacebuilding Commission could, and stands ready, to play a potentially useful role by helping to ensure overall coordination. Sustained multilateral and bilateral assistance will be especially important in the period before revenues from the extractive sector reinforce Sierra Leone's budget position. The configuration intends to engage more extensively with those issues in the coming months.

Let me conclude by noting that much has been invested and much gained in Sierra Leone in the past years. The forthcoming elections and transition period present risks, but also constitute an opportunity to further consolidate peace, deepen democratic governance and lay the foundations for a prosperous future. Sierra Leoneans have demonstrated tremendous determination in rebuilding their country after a devastating civil war. The international community needs to continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with them in the years to come.

The President: I thank Mr. Rishchynski for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Sierra Leone.

Mr. Touray (Sierra Leone): While congratulating you, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for the month of September and thanking you for giving my delegation an opportunity to contribute to today's briefing on the situation in Sierra Leone, I should like, on behalf of His Excellency President Ernest Bai Koroma, the Government and the people of Sierra Leone, to convey our profound appreciation for the continued support and unfailing interest of the Security Council, the wider membership of the United Nations and our international partners in consolidating our hard-won peace and security.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General for his ninth report (S/2012/679) on the activities of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL), which covers the period 1 March to 31 August. The report meticulously highlights the progress made and the remaining challenges in our efforts at peace consolidation and transition to a more development-oriented phase. We note with profound appreciation the instructive review provided courtesy of Executive Representative of the Secretary-General Jens Toyberg-Frandzen, which critically focused on the upcoming elections and issues of interest and concern in the post-election phase in Sierra Leone.

We also express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the members of the Sierra Leone configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) through its Chair, Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski of Canada, for the unrelenting commitment and strong support they continue to demonstrate in the pursuit of peace and security in Sierra Leone. We note with particular interest Mr. Rishchynski's rundown on the preparations for the conduct of the elections on 17 November and the necessary support required of UNIPSIL and the agencies and programmes before and during the post-election transition, as well as his views on future support to Sierra Leone's political and economic priorities. We are quite in agreement with the facts set forth in his briefing.

The end of the conflict in 2002 marked the collective resolve of the people of Sierra Leone to bring an end to 11 years of nightmare, and their preference for peace, security and development. Since then, with the support of the Security Council, the United Nations in general and international partners, remarkable progress has been made in charting a path for a peaceful, secure, democratic Sierra Leone and its future prosperity. As we commend all of us and relevant stakeholders for the gains made, some of which are quite irreversible, it is crucial that together we continue to tackle the remaining challenges in order to further advance and consolidate comprehensively our peacebuilding priorities.

Key among them is the increasing need to address the economic, social and governance challenges to match the growing expectations of Sierra Leoneans. As already stated by the Chair of the configuration, several of those challenges are long-term in nature and will require sustained effort over a substantial period

of time, since much depends on the global economic situation and the overall subregional security climate.

As we continue to make steady progress in addressing the three risks areas of youth unemployment, corruption and illicit drug trafficking and organized crime identified in our Agenda for Change and endorsed by the Sierra Leone PBC configuration, we are equally committed to making progress in strengthening our health care, energy, education, agriculture and transport infrastructure. Those areas, when fully developed, will catalyse prospects for job creation, address key peacebuilding priorities and put Sierra Leone on the path to sustainability and resilience. Fostering partnership with the international community to achieve the highly interlinked and desirable goals of peace, security and development remains a primary concern of the Government and the people of Sierra Leone.

The Government will continue to demonstrate strong political leadership in dealing with issues of political violence in whatever shape or form and irrespective of party affiliation, and, through due process, will continue to ensure that perpetrators of violence are brought to justice, as was evident in the conviction of those involved in the political violence in Freetown in January. In that regard, the Government released a white paper on the report of the Shears-Moses Commission of Inquiry on the political violence of March 2009 and continues to make progress in addressing its recommendations, including working with all national stakeholders and international partners to establish an independent police complaints committee and strengthening the Independent Media Commission to improve its monitoring procedures over media matters and actors.

President Koroma continues to constantly engage all stakeholders, with a view to encouraging and promoting political dialogue towards the attainment of a collective commitment to peaceful, free, fair, transparent and credible elections. In that regard, we call to the Council's attention the signing by all 10 registered political parties and other relevant stakeholders of the "Declaration on the 2012 elections", on 18 May — a code of conduct for the elections aimed at ensuring peaceful and violence-free elections. That is ample demonstration of the commitment of the Government and the people of Sierra Leone to peaceful, free, fair and credible elections with the hope that the results will be accepted by all.

We therefore continue to urge the Security Council and the United Nations in general, as well as our international partners, to maintain their full support for the ongoing electoral process. The presidential, parliamentary and local council elections scheduled for 17 November 2012, as has been noted, remain a crucial test for the consolidation of peace, security and democracy in Sierra Leone. Continued commitment and support from international partners to assist the Government in strengthening key national democratic institutions such as the Political Parties Registration Commission, the Independent Media Commission, the National Commission for Democracy, the National Electoral Commission, the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone and the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation, remains of primary significance.

I am confident in reporting to the Council that preparations for the presidential, parliamentary and local elections are on course and at an advanced stage, with the National Electoral Commission continuing to demonstrate transparency and credibility throughout the process. At the invitation of the Sierra Leone Configuration, the Chair of the National Electoral Commission gave a comprehensive briefing to members of the Configuration in New York in June on the preparations for the elections.

Recent activities aimed at improving the electoral climate have included the presidential assent by His Excellency Mr. Ernest Bai Koroma to the Public Elections Law, which consolidates all existing electoral legislation into a single document; the appointment of a new Chair of the Political Parties Registration Commission after the death of the incumbent, in order to enhance the Commission's capacity to be actively functional in the discharge of its mandate; and the inauguration of the electoral courts to deal with electoral offences and related matters in order to ensure due process, as well as support for the machinery of justice through UNIPSIL's collaboration with Government in the training of judges, prosecutors, police investigators and paralegal staff. To provide equal access to air time and programmes of the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation, an elections guideline prepared by the Corporation was adopted by all political parties on 9 August and followed by the establishment of an elections unit to focus specifically on elections matters.

In line with the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission aimed at addressing the root causes of conflict in Sierra Leone, the Government is

continuing to collaborate with all national stakeholders and the United Nations in promoting the drafting and enactment of the gender equality bill, so as to enhance women's participation in the decision-making process. The Government is also continuing to strengthen its efforts to make progress towards the education of the girl child and the provision of free health care to pregnant women, lactating mothers and children under 5 years of age. Furthermore, with support from the Peacebuilding Fund and the International Organization for Migration, the National Commission for Social Action commenced a new round of payments of reparations to the remaining victims of the 11-year conflict.

The Agenda for Change and the United Nations Joint Vision aligned with it continue to provide a strong partnership link between Sierra Leone and the United Nations, as well as the donor community. Its implementation has so far had a great impact on peacebuilding. Sierra Leone today is considered a best practice in donor coordination as well as a peacebuilding success story. In that regard, we stress the need for the international community to continue to invest in success, in the spirit of the New Deal arrived at in Busan on aid effectiveness, and to recognize the need for special attention to be paid to countries emerging from conflict — Sierra Leone being one of the pilot countries. The preparation of the successor development framework to the Agenda for Change, anchored in the New Deal and entitled Agenda for Prosperity, is well under way, and some of its key elements will be highlighted during the presentation of the second joint progress report on the Agenda for Change at the Sierra Leone Configuration meeting to be held soon.

The Chair of the Sierra Leone Configuration, Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski, visited Sierra Leone in January. His report and the briefing by the Configuration underscored the progress made in addressing key peacebuilding priorities and the need for enduring support, particularly in the area of youth unemployment and empowerment, building the capacity of the police, and the need for strong private-sector growth, which could translate into more tangible peace dividends and sustainable peace consolidation. At an open briefing by the Security Council team after its visit to Sierra Leone in May, similar sentiments were also expressed on the progress made and the need for support to address the present challenges.

We commend the support of the United Nations and international partners for the work of the Special Court for Sierra Leone and hail the judgement passed against Mr. Charles Taylor by the Court for crimes against humanity and violations of international humanitarian law committed in Sierra Leone during the course of the conflict. We therefore urge the United Nations and international partners to continue to support the Court towards the completion of its work.

Let me conclude by welcoming the new Executive Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Jens Toyberg-Frandzen, and assuring him of the Government's interest and of its readiness and willingness to cooperate with him in order to ensure a successful outcome of his mission in Sierra Leone. I am sure that by now he must be convinced that Sierra Leoneans are very friendly, hospitable and ordinarily peaceful. We also express thanks and appreciation to the staff of UNIPSIL, United Nations agencies and programmes in Sierra Leone, and all our international partners for their unreserved commitment to achieving Sierra Leone's peacebuilding objectives along with our development transformation goals.

As in the previous general elections held in 2002 and 2007, we look forward once again to peaceful, free, fair and credible elections acceptable to all.

Before closing, I should like to make some comments on the issue of nomination fees, as raised in the briefing by the Executive Representative of the Secretary-General. I should like to put on record the fact that first, the decision was taken by an independent body — the National Electoral Commission — and that secondly, due process was ensured, as it was discussed and debated in Parliament, and the ayes had it. Thirdly, it should perhaps be brought to the attention of the Council that it is a known factor that some of the political parties had to levy nearly 50 million leones for an aspirant to be a presidential candidate for the next elections — that is asking for hundreds of millions for the national presidential elections for each candidate.

Furthermore, it is a known factor that some other parties have tried to introduce mechanisms aimed at more or less spreading out the burden of that fee by ensuring that they get it out of the fees contributed to the parties by aspirants, out of which proceeds they will bond the nomination fee for the successful aspirant who becomes the candidate. So mechanisms are to be put in place by the parties themselves to make sure that the burden is spread out and that no one member bears it alone.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on this subject.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.



Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6830th meeting

Tuesday, 11 September 2012, 3 p.m.
New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Wittig	(Germany)
<i>Members:</i>	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Sun Xiaobo
	Colombia	Mr. Alzate
	France	Mr. Briens
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Ragutthalli
	Morocco	Mr. Bouchaara
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zhukov
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	Togo	Mr. Menan
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

The situation in Liberia

Twenty-fourth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (S/2012/641)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Liberia

Twenty-fourth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia (S/2012/641)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Liberia to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Ms. Karin Landgren, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in Liberia, to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Staffan Tillander, Chair of the Liberian country configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and representative of Sweden, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2012/641, which contains the twenty-fourth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia.

I now give the floor to Ms. Landgren.

Ms. Landgren: The report of the Secretary-General now before the Council (S/2012/641) continues to reflect this year's particular focus on the evolution of United Nations engagement in Liberia. Since 2003, Liberia has transformed itself from a failed State into one well along the path to democracy and lasting peace. The country has made remarkable progress in institutional rebuilding, economic recovery and consolidation of its democratic processes. The presidential and legislative elections of 2011 demonstrated its capacity to manage a politically and logistically complex event. The subsequent peaceful formation of a new Government signaled the country's increased stability.

With Liberia on the verge of becoming a true success story, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) must walk a delicate balance, applauding successes and pulling back its support while continuing

to accompany Liberia in areas crucial to lasting peace. The United Nations continues to provide security support to Liberia on a significant scale. But, as the Secretary-General notes in his report, security measures alone will not create lasting stability in Liberia. The reinforcement of the national security sector should go hand in hand with national reconciliation and structural changes aimed at addressing the underlying causes of past conflict. Achieving that, however, will take both political commitment and financial resources.

During its visit in May, the Council saw first hand both Liberia's promise as well as the remaining challenges. The Government is firmly committed to taking on the security responsibilities now performed by the Mission. On the basis of a recent joint transition workshop held by the Government and UNMIL, we have updated our joint planning structures and are reviewing the linkages between these structures, donor coordination mechanisms and Liberia's development frameworks for greater coherence. We have designed a graphic road map to help illustrate phase by phase the demands on the Liberian security sector and to give the Government the necessary lead time to adjust its security posture.

Addressing capacity gaps in the security sector will be important to a successful and well-managed transition. As the technical assessment mission concluded, national security agencies are not yet able to maintain stability without the support of UNMIL. The technical assessment mission also set out other areas that continue to need attention.

How best to address capacity needs was a major theme of our recent workshop, and Liberia's international partners — including Ambassador Tillander, the Chair of the Liberia country configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission — were heavily engaged. With a growing annual budget — at \$672 million for 2012-2013, up by nearly a quarter on last year — Liberia is increasingly able to find national resources to help finance the security sector. But the country has many competing priorities. The recent public expenditure review of the Liberian security sector, conducted by UNMIL and the World Bank, concluded that it would take another six or seven years until Liberia can cover these costs independently. In the meantime, donor support will be essential.

The Liberia National Police (LNP) has made headway, recently doubling its physical capacity at the

police academy and, in June, deploying to the Côte d'Ivoire border with the Armed Forces of Liberia. But given the relatively large burden the police will bear as UNMIL transitions, considerable attention should be given to increasing police professionalism and logistics capacity. Also, increased resources will be needed for recurring costs. After the transition workshop, the Government was able to identify additional resources for the police, reportedly as much as a 26-per cent increase from last year. Of particular concern, however, is a decreased allocation for the police training academy at a time when the need is so great to scale up LNP recruitment and training.

The Police Support Unit and the Emergency Response Unit — specialized bodies responsible for riot control and quick reaction — will become central to national response to security incidents as UNMIL draws down. The strength of the Police Support Unit needs to grow to at least 1,000, of which it is currently over 25 per cent short, mindful always of maintaining quality and professionalism.

Given the porosity of Liberia's borders and the security and political challenges in the Mano River Union, supporting the Government to form an effective and professional immigration service is a high priority. The United Nations Police will form a dedicated unit to work with the Government on the strategic plan of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization. Through this, the Bureau should emerge with better-defined functions and a rationalized structure. Vetting of Bureau personnel is also central to these reforms.

Building the capacity of the security sector needs to be properly framed. As important as numbers is police professionalism. Liberia's national security strategy, and a drive to implement the security related legislation signed into law last year, can help to achieve this. A new police law, a civilian complaints board and legislation on gun control are part of the scaffolding for a sound security sector, joining last month's establishment of a national small arms commission.

Strengthened security capacity and regulation will need to be matched with a stronger justice system if the public is to have confidence in the State's capacity to protect and provide justice. The Justice and Security Joint Programme, agreed among all rule of law actors in December 2011, coherently captures national priorities, and will guide the development of this sector over the next three years. The programme includes five justice

and security hubs, the first of which is soon to be completed with funding from the Peacebuilding Fund. These hubs decentralize justice and security services, historically centred in Monrovia, bringing them closer to rural populations.

Constitutional reform and national reconciliation are recognized as central to peace consolidation in Liberia. In August, the President appointed a five-person constitution review committee, whose members represent various political, ethnic and religious backgrounds. The scope of the committee's task has not yet been made public. Separately, a constitutional reform initiative has been advanced by a group called the Political Consultative Forum, composed of all major political parties, including the ruling party, and civil society groups. The Law Reform Commission and the Governance Commission are also engaged, and the Liberia Bar Association has recently made recommendations in this area.

Views differ on whether Liberia should engage in comprehensive constitutional reform or simply amend selected provisions. Any revision must be endorsed by referendum, which implies a high degree of public awareness. A truly inclusive and consultative process holds one of the keys to overcoming the structural imbalances and injustices that continue to present risks for the stability of the country.

As the Secretary-General's special report of this April (S/2012/230) underlined, a highly centralized system of governance is rooted in the current Constitution. Reform opens the door to greater decentralization and to allowing all Liberians to enjoy dependable access to services and greater political inclusion. Such reforms are also manifestly a factor in national reconciliation.

A draft reconciliation road map is currently under review and due to be launched in October. Coordinated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the road map covers some principal recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, including the "Palava Hut" programme, where perpetrators can seek public forgiveness. Other elements recommended by the Commission, such as those on impunity, remain largely unaddressed in the draft road map. As this process moves forward, the United Nations would encourage full, inclusive consultation and public discussion, allowing all Liberians to feel part of a national healing process. The United Nations would also like to see

an invigorated Independent National Commission on Human Rights, and UNMIL is ready to offer support to this end.

The Liberian Government has continued its efforts to mitigate security threats at its border with Côte d'Ivoire. Both Governments and the two Missions met in June to discuss enhanced border security and protection of civilians. Following this, Liberia deployed Operation Restore Hope, in which the Armed Forces of Liberia, the Emergency Response Unit and the Bureau of Immigration are taking part. This is the first major deployment of the Armed Forces of Liberia. The operation has been conducted in border areas with only limited localized support from UNMIL. The Government has taken additional measures, including the closure of the border, with exceptions on humanitarian grounds.

The Mission and the Government have long received reporting of alleged training and recruitment of armed groups on Liberian soil, including in reports of the Panel of Experts, some of these alleging the involvement of Ivorians residing in refugee camps in Liberia. A comprehensive national strategy to address the issue of mercenaries and foreign combatants is still needed. When I visited the PTP refugee camp in Grand Gedeh county last month, refugee leaders and local authorities all called for greater camp security. Several measures that were previously agreed have yet to be implemented, including an unarmed National Police presence at the camps and adequate screening of arriving asylum seekers by the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission.

UNMIL and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) have strengthened our inter-mission cooperation on border issues. The missions remain ready to work with both Governments on a shared border strategy, as the Council has called for in resolution 2062 (2012), including not only security measures but also longer-term elements of reconciliation, justice and employment.

Since June, the missions have conducted mirrored patrols, and have held five meetings under a revitalized Operation Mayo, which includes civilian participation in joint border meetings to build confidence and draw on the strong community ties on both sides of the border. UNMIL and UNOCI have secured the approval of their host Governments to conduct cross-border air operations and aerial reconnaissance missions, which may also

have a deterrent effect when employed in response to known threats. We are also setting up hotlines between sector commanders to share information as quickly as possible at the field level

UNMIL is able to begin the transition because of the progress that Liberia has made since 2003. The Mission represents nearly a decade of major investment by the international community. That investment has paid handsome dividends, supporting Liberians with a time and space free of war. That has made possible two democratic elections and steps towards national reform on a large scale. Liberia is becoming a nation at peace with itself and with its past, a nation able to channel its vast economic potential into the better lives its people have waited for.

In the context of a carefully managed transition, the Council's own calls for a coherent approach to peacekeeping and peacebuilding are particularly important. As UNMIL works with the Government and partners to chart a critical path towards an exit strategy, Liberia's stability must remain the top priority.

I look forward to working closely with all Liberians and with the Council in support of Liberia's continued peaceful advancement. I would like to thank all of UNMIL's Liberian partners for having welcomed me so warmly.

The President: I thank Ms. Landgren for her briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Tillander.

Mr. Tillander: I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for inviting me to contribute to the Council's deliberations today on Liberia. I am pleased to be here together with Special Representative of the Secretary-General Karin Landgren. I appreciate all of the support that the Special Representative and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) have given me in my work. I also appreciate the guidance provided by you, Mr. President, for today's briefing. I shall focus my remarks on three issues — the political agenda, UNMIL transition and the Liberia National Police (LNP) — and in particular how the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) will engage and provide support on those issues.

First, on moving forward the political agenda, coherent and inclusive national reconciliation should be at the centre of the Liberian peace process. That is a core peacebuilding priority in the Statement of Mutual

Commitments, which is the compact between the PBC and the Government of Liberia. Part of that process entails mending relations between the State and society, between communities and between individuals. That includes reformulating the Liberian historical narrative, including giving recognition to past persecution, discrimination and marginalization. Reconciliation is also linked to processes of constitutional review, decentralization and electoral reform. All of those are essential parts of the broader peacebuilding process in Liberia. Those are transformative changes; a critical factor for success will be the inclusivity of the processes.

One of the main challenges so far to the reconciliation process has been to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach. Since last year, the PBC has urged national actors to develop a road map on reconciliation. That road map has now been developed. The validation process has been initiated and, if inclusive, will generate national ownership for the road map.

Later this month, the PBC will engage in discussions with Internal Affairs Minister Nelson, who is responsible for coordinating the reconciliation and decentralization processes. It is my ambition to keep the PBC configuration informed and engaged in a regular dialogue. Maintaining political will is essential. In that respect, the Statement of Mutual Commitments serves as a useful accountability tool.

Financial resources, in addition to the Liberian Government's allocation of \$5 million, are also needed. We have a responsibility in that respect. The PBC pushed for the road map; we now need to consider ways to support its implementation, financially as well as with the in-kind resources that might be required.

A vibrant civil society acts as an important source for civic engagement, and will also be vital to national ownership of reconciliation. Yet, in Liberia those actors are constrained by capacity limitations. We need to find ways to encourage their work and strengthen civil society, including by building their core capacities. The PBC will maintain focus on this issue and I will continue to meet with representatives of civil society during my visits.

The PBC will liaise closely with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to ensure that our efforts are fully coherent with those of the United Nations. With the support of the United Nations country team, UNMIL has a vital role to play in reconciliation.

The PBC fully supports the suggestion that this should be reflected in UNMIL's mandate.

The second issue is PBC support to UNMIL and the Liberian Government to prepare for the transition. Strengthening rule of law and security sector reform are key in that context. They are also priorities for the PBC. While there has been progress, there are still some significant capacity gaps with regard to justice and security actors, in particular the Liberia National Police. Oversight and accountability mechanisms also need to be firmly established.

As part of the Statement of Mutual Commitments, the Liberian Government is committed to increasing the budget for justice and security. The PBC will continue to watch that as part of our ongoing dialogue on the Commitments. We will also benefit from the public expenditure review carried out by the World Bank and the United Nations. The review offers advice on what costs the Government needs to assume and how to gradually incorporate transition costs into the national budget. Later this week, I will have an opportunity to discuss the follow-up to the review with the World Bank, as well as funding directed to critical peacebuilding priorities within the international envelope for development.

The review also shows a considerable funding gap over the next several years. As the transition advances, the international community must step up its efforts to support a smooth transition. The message should be that the United Nations, the international financial institutions and bilateral partners will continue to engage and support Liberia. The United Nations country team, I am told, will be stepping up its efforts in the coming United Nations Peacebuilding and Development Assistance Framework cycle. UNICEF will be adding extra resources to its country programme. I encourage other United Nations agencies to do the same. As Chair, I will work with configuration members to enhance our efforts.

Key to resource mobilization is a coordinated approach based on Government priorities. The Justice and Security Board and its annual work plan offer a comprehensive and coordinated basis, which is also aligned with the work of the PBC, the Liberian Peacebuilding Programme and the Statement of Mutual Commitments. But efforts must be made to enhance the functioning of the Trust Fund for Justice and Security. Bilateral partners are presently working closely with

the United Nations Development Programme to that end. A similar set-up is being discussed for support to reconciliation activities, and it must work without flaws or delays.

A key project already under way is the regional justice and security hubs. The hubs should facilitate the establishment of an effective and accountable State presence throughout the country. That will also contribute to closing gaps and avoiding any appearance of a vacuum. However, delays in the construction of the first hub generated valid questions about its viability. The response can best be provided through action on the ground, by completing the establishment of the hub and showing its impact. As we begin to assess the impact on the surrounding communities, if security is enhanced and access to justice increased, the PBC will have a persuasive presentation for resource mobilization for the next hubs.

Several lessons have already been identified. The United Nations system must be able to more effectively coordinate its efforts between it and the Government. Time frames must be adhered to. The design of the hubs needs to be adjusted according to the circumstances of each region. If the lessons are effectively applied, it should be possible to complete the next four hubs within tight time frames. The PBC will continue to monitor the implementation of the hub and to draw attention to shortcomings when necessary.

Finally, the third point has to do with PBC support for capacity-building of the Liberia National Police. I have already touched upon some aspects, but would like to add the following.

After a request in May by the President of Liberia, the PBC facilitated consultations on how to strengthen and coordinate training support to Liberian National Police. The outcome was an understanding that focus should continue on Government ownership, building on UNMIL accomplishments and its overarching role. But it is also clear that, to ensure a smooth transition, we must explore modalities for closer cooperation between UNMIL, bilateral partners and the country team, with the purpose of improving the quality and numbers of the LNP.

The PBC will continue to encourage partners to get involved, increase support and enhance coordination. That should include increasing their role in coordinating efforts and leading in specific areas. The PBC will explore how it can contribute to creative

approaches to deploying highly skilled officers to specific professional posts, which was an issue raised by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General at the briefing of the troop- and police-contributing countries on 6 September.

The PBC is in the process of finalizing a resource mobilization strategy and a corresponding work plan. We will work closely with the Government and UNMIL. The intention is to be a support to the Liberian Government and its resource mobilization efforts. A primary consideration will be how to build on the investment of the PBF and its catalytic role. There is much potential and good examples, such as Australian support to PBF-funded youth empowerment and partner support to the PBF-funded United Nations Habitat work on land conflict resolution.

Later this month, we will meet with the Minister of Finance, Mr. Konneh, and other key PBC counterparts, who will brief the Commission on progress on Government commitments. As previously indicated, the Statement of Mutual Commitments is a valuable accountability tool for both the Government and members of the configuration.

We will continue to use it to its full potential, and will keep the Council informed of the outcome of our second review.

I thank you, Mr. President, for allowing the PBC to share its views. We remain at the Council's disposal for any questions now, as well as in the future.

The President: I thank Mr. Tillander for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Liberia.

Ms. Kamara (Liberia): I am grateful for the opportunity afforded me to participate in this briefing as the Council prepares to consider the twenty-fourth progress report of the Secretary-General (S/2012/641) on the activities of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

As routine as such reports may seem, each one presents an occasion for reflection and a renewal of commitment, especially as they are usually linked to decisions on the extension of mandates. I hope that on this occasion consensus will be facilitated by the Council's earlier endorsement, in April 2012, of the plan for a phased transition, leading to the reconfiguration of UNMIL's presence by June 2015.

In that regard, I would like to express my Government's deep appreciation of the steadfast support that the Council has provided to Liberia and for the decision that it will hopefully take on the continuation of our partnership with the United Nations through UNMIL.

I would like to echo the sentiments of welcome to the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Ms. Karin Landgren, which she has already received from my President and other officials of the Liberian Government in Monrovia. My colleagues at the Permanent Mission of Liberia and I look forward to working with her in her challenging, but hopefully enriching, assignment.

I thank Ms. Landgren for her very informative and insightful overview of the situation in Liberia, which highlights the areas of progress and the challenges that remain, with all of which we can fully associate. We are confident that her vast professional experience will enable her to fulfil her duties very well indeed.

I wish also to recognize the good stewardship of Mr. Moustapha Soumaré, who steered the UNMIL ship for the past six months and is deserving of our commendation. In his presentation, the Chair of the Liberia configuration, Mr. Tillander, also demonstrated the value added of Liberia's engagement with the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). Both presentations demonstrate the complementarity and mutually reinforcing effect of those two arms of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture. Needless to say, the PBC is helping to build capacity, to promote decentralization and to provide support for national reconciliation. Bringing the two arms together in such a briefing can only be immensely beneficial to the Council's work. Much has already been said. I do not intend to repeat, but simply to emphasize a few points.

The first point is that security along the Liberia-Côte d'Ivoire border is a major preoccupation of my Government. That worrying situation requires close attention and a high level of vigilance, since it poses potential risks to national and regional security. The deployment of civilian and military forces to border areas for protracted periods is stretching already scarce Government resources. The capacity to meet our obligations to the refugees in the camps is strained. That was mentioned by the Special Representative. In a visit to the Economic Community of West African States Commission in Abuja last Friday, the President

of Liberia, Her Excellency Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, underscored the gravity of the situation and warned of the possibility that it could overwhelm Liberia's nascent security services, with implications for both sides of the border. In commending actions that UNMIL and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire are taking in support of the national forces to manage the situation, we stress the imperative of continued cooperation and collaboration between national and international forces on both sides of the border.

Secondly, I want to reaffirm my Government's intention to honour the commitments that it has made, whether in the Statement of Mutual Commitments with the PBC or in other instruments and plans concluded with UNMIL in the pursuit of identified priorities. The Government has subscribed to certain principles of governance as a matter of national policy and has aligned itself with countries of a similar persuasion in the Group of Seven Plus. We seek to promote justice, security, popular participation for our people and the effective management and use of our national resources for their benefit. The seemingly slow progress in certain areas, which we acknowledge, does not reflect a wavering of political will, but rather a limitation of means, notably in the capacity and financial resources available. They are ultimately the determinants of allocations in a small budget that aims to address immense needs. Let me affirm that the Government is very anxious to accelerate progress to a level that meets the expectations of our friends in the international community and also responds to the aspirations of the Liberian people.

The third point of emphasis relates to the Secretary-General's report on UNMIL of 15 August, which is the basis for our discussion today. We appreciate the effort to present a balanced account of developments, which is usually the hallmark of such reports. However, I have been instructed to express my Government's disappointment that a few assertions do not reach the expected level of accuracy. For the purposes of the closed consultations, I have taken the liberty to share with members of the Council — I do not know if they have received them — my Government's comments on the report, which were conveyed to Mr. Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General and Head of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

We believe that the relatively open and constructive relationship that has been nurtured between my Government and UNMIL over the years should allow

for a discussion of some of those draft documents, not reserving any right to veto for the Government but enabling a joint effort to vet and verify assertions that would be put in the public domain. The reports help to shape and can influence the views of the international community about Liberia, including its potential investment partners. Notwithstanding the United Nations culture and practice, which may prohibit the sharing of such draft documents a priori, it is prudent that some arrangement be agreed to avoid that type of intervention. In making public its assessments, the United Nations is respectfully encouraged to observe the principle of do no harm so that it does not inadvertently deepen the fault lines in our society, many of which are still triggers of conflict.

The United Nations engagement in Liberia, in all of its aspects, continues to be critical to the country's stability and progress. The nature and form of that engagement will inevitably change, but we are receptive to a smooth and orderly transition in line with conditions on the ground. That is why my Government has endorsed the recommendations of the technical

assessment mission, as contained in the April report (S/2012/230). We already see the United Nations country team redesigning its programmes in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for 2013-2017 and synchronizing activities with UNMIL's drawdown plan. On Monday, we participated in the presentation of the draft country programme for Liberia of the United Nations Development Programme, which covers the same four-year timeframe.

All of what I have referred to are indicators of a long-term partnership. Liberia appreciates the Security Council's invaluable contribution to the partnership and to the maintenance of an environment conducive to the implementation of activities aimed at improving the well-being of the Liberian people. We are also grateful to our bilateral partners, many of whom some of those around the table represent, for the support. We look forward to continued engagement.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on the list of speakers. I now invite members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on this subject.

The meeting rose at 3.40 p.m.



Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6831st meeting

Wednesday, 12 September 2012, 10 a.m.

New York

President: Mr. Wittig (Germany)

Members:

Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
China	Mr. Li Baodong
Colombia	Mr. Alzate
France	Mr. Araud
Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
India	Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri
Morocco	Mr. Bouchaara
Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
Portugal	Mr. Madureira
Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
South Africa	Mr. Laher
Togo	Mr. M'Beou
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

Ninth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (S/2012/679)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

12-50426 (E)



Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

Ninth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (S/2012/679)

The President: In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Sierra Leone to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2012/698, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

I wish to draw the attention of members to document S/2012/679, which contains the ninth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Azerbaijan, China, Colombia, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Morocco, Pakistan, Portugal, Russian Federation, South Africa, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

The President: There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2065 (2012).

I now give the floor to the representative of Sierra Leone.

Mr. Touray (Sierra Leone): Once again, the Council has demonstrated its collective determination to see Sierra Leone succeed. I want to assure Council members that there is ongoing political will on the part of the Government, as well as a common will and interest on the part of ordinary folk, for the country to succeed. In my view, the threat may lie in the interplay of party politics, and we urge that no effort be spared to resolve that issue in the interest of the peace consolidation process in Sierra Leone. We hope that this will ensure that the process will gravitate in the direction of moving the country towards its development goals.

I thank the members of the Council for the unanimity they have shown in adopting resolution 2065 (2012).

The President: The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.10 a.m.



Security Council

Sixty-seventh year

Provisional

6832nd meeting

Wednesday, 12 September 2012, 10.15 a.m.

New York

<i>President:</i>	Mr. Wittig	(Germany)
<i>Members:</i>	Azerbaijan	Mr. Mehdiyev
	China	Mr. Li Baodong
	Colombia	Mr. Alzate
	France	Mr. Araud
	Guatemala	Mr. Rosenthal
	India	Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri
	Morocco	Mr. Bouchaara
	Pakistan	Mr. Tarar
	Portugal	Mr. Moraes Cabral
	Russian Federation	Mr. Pankin
	South Africa	Mr. Laher
	Togo	Mr. M'Beou
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Mark Lyall Grant
	United States of America	Mrs. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in Libya

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (S/2012/675)

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12-50438 (E)



Please recycle



The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Libya

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (S/2012/675)

The President: Under rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Libya to participate in this meeting.

Under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of members of the Council to document S/2012/675, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya.

I now give the floor to Mr. Feltman.

Mr. Feltman: Yesterday, as you mentioned before the meeting, Mr. President, the world witnessed a sobering reminder of the challenges faced not only by the Libyans but by those in the international community who are committed to supporting Libya's ongoing transformation. In Benghazi, the United States diplomatic presence was deliberately attacked and burned; those claiming responsibility cited a video insulting to Islam as their motivation. Four United States diplomats were killed in the attack, including the United States Ambassador to Libya, John Christopher Stevens. I have seen reports that Libyan security personnel were also killed.

The United Nations rejects the defamation of religion in any form, but there is no justification for violence such as that which occurred in Benghazi yesterday. We condemn in the strongest terms this attack on a diplomatic facility, and we offer our condolences to the families of those killed, Libyan and American, and our wishes for a speedy and full recovery to the injured.

The Organization, under the direction of the Secretary-General, is committed to doing its best to support Libya's ongoing transition and help the Libyan people achieve their aspirations for a secure, democratic, united and prosperous Libya. We work in partnership first and foremost with the Libyan people and Government, but also with other governmental and non-governmental partners. The Secretary-General reminds the Libyan authorities of their obligation to protect diplomatic facilities and personnel. We welcome statements by Libyan authorities confirming that they will bring those who killed the diplomatic personnel to justice.

The United States Ambassador Chris Stevens was a close colleague and dear friend; we had worked together for years during my tenure at the State Department. I would like to add my own words of condolence to his family and the wide circle of friends he had around the world.

This attack, together with a spate of assassinations of security personnel in Benghazi, a series of explosive devices in Tripoli and attacks on Sufi shrines, further emphasizes the security challenges facing the authorities in Libya, a major theme of the Secretary-General's report before the Council (S/2012/675). While the Secretary-General's report was prepared before the news of the attack on the United States office in Benghazi, it details some of the most important milestones in Libya's democratic transition since the last briefing to the Council, on 18 July (see S/PV.6807). I will focus on the most significant developments since the report was prepared and outline some of the challenges facing the new Libyan authorities, and the way forward.

The transfer of authority from the National Transitional Council to the 200-member General National Congress on 8 August marked a historic moment. For the first time in more than four decades, Libya now has a democratically elected body. On 9 August, reflecting the sense of public trust and expectation that accompanied its assumption of office, the General National Congress moved quickly to elect a President and two Vice-Presidents, as per the Constitutional Declaration. The use of secret balloting and the fact that the proceedings were broadcast live on television reflect the Congress's commitment to the democratic process. In his meetings with President Al-Magariaf of the General National Congress and his two Vice-Presidents, the Special Representative of the

Secretary-General, Mr. Ian Martin, was assured of their commitment to making a clean break with the past by upholding the principles of transparency and accountability.

The General National Congress will now need to address several urgent priorities. High among them are the need to initiate a national dialogue on reconciliation; to strengthen its capacity to exercise oversight over the Government, a daunting task in view of the country's lack of parliamentary experience; to prevent the persistence of systemic corruption; and to adopt local governance legislation. Progress on local governance issues will constitute a first step towards addressing the legitimate and urgent need for decentralized Government. It is also crucial that the Congress create mechanisms by which civil society is assured a voice and is adequately consulted on all important matters.

On 30 August, the General National Congress provisionally adopted internal rules of procedure following intense discussions and amendments in the plenary. These rules will be critical for shaping Libya's political system, including the authority of the presidency, the voting requirements for decision-making within the Congress and the delineation of powers between the legislative and the executive branches.

At the request of the Libyan authorities, the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the United Nations Development Programme provided various forms of technical assistance to the preparations for the transfer of authority from the National Transitional Council to the General National Congress, and then to the Congress' consideration of its internal rules of procedure and models for a possible secretariat structure. The United Nations also began induction training for the 200 members on issues related to the roles and functions of parliaments and members. The United Nations will continue to provide technical support to the Congress and to coordinate, with the international community, offers of assistance and technical support.

Later today, the General National Congress will vote to appoint a Prime Minister, who will be tasked with presenting a cabinet to the Congress for its approval within two weeks. Today's appointment follows lengthy deliberations within the Congress over eligibility criteria and internal mechanisms for the appointment of the Prime Minister. Each of

eight candidates, nominated by at least 15 members, presented their platform and answered questions in televised proceedings. The transparency of this process is a testament to Libya's nascent democracy and sets new standards for the region.

The formation of a Government of national consensus that is inclusive and enjoys widespread support will be key to the ability of the new Prime Minister to effectively address the formidable challenges facing Libya. So too will be the ability of the new Government to work in partnership with the General National Congress.

On the eve of the election, an amendment to article 30 of the Constitutional Declaration by the National Transitional Council changed what was to have been an appointed constitutional commission into an elected constituent assembly. This change has triggered much debate, and the General National Congress has yet to consider how it will respond. This amendment was part of an effort to defuse tensions arising from a perception of marginalization and underrepresentation, mainly in the east, that threatened the security of the national elections. These issues remain a serious concern.

The United Nations continues to encourage the adoption of transparent, inclusive and consultative mechanisms to manage the entire constitutional development process. The United Nations is prepared to offer a broad spectrum of support should the Libyans request it, including on the formation of the constitutional commission's secretariat, draft rules of procedure, public outreach and civic education, induction seminars and ongoing substantive expert assistance. UNSMIL has begun efforts to help coordinate support among other international partners.

The United Nations has encouraged the Libyan authorities to consolidate the knowledge gained from the holding of elections and to preserve an institutional infrastructure to serve future elections. The United Nations has also begun to implement plans designed to increase awareness and knowledge of electoral issues among decision-makers and the public at large.

I discussed at the beginning of this briefing the attack against the United States diplomatic facility in Benghazi. This is one example, but not the only one, demonstrating that security is foremost among the challenges and expectations facing the Libyan people and authorities. In his remarks marking the dissolution of the National Transitional Council, Chairman

Mustafa Abdul Jalil acknowledged shortcomings in addressing these issues, a sentiment echoed by the General National Congress leadership and political leaders. These challenges are manifested by the presence of arms outside State control, lack of clarity and competition over security responsibilities between and within relevant ministries and institutions, and the continued prevalence of armed brigades. In addition to these concerns, border security remains a top national priority in the efforts to combat the smuggling of arms, drugs, human trafficking and illegal migration, as well as the spread of transnational organized crime.

Leaders from across the political spectrum have voiced their intention to make security their highest priority. It is clear that the General National Congress expects the new cabinet to move quickly to announce immediate measures to begin to remedy these shortcomings as part of a longer-term national security vision and plan.

To assist the Government, UNSMIL is focusing its advisory and coordination efforts on six key interrelated areas: the national security architecture; police reform; defence reform; arms and ammunition management; border security; and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. Accordingly, UNSMIL has increased its advisory capacity and stepped up efforts to strengthen international coordination for support to security sector governance.

The urgency with which the security vacuum in Libya needs to be addressed was also highlighted by the spate of attacks on Sufi shrines over the past few weeks. These include the destruction on 24 August of one of Libya's most revered shrines in the city of Zliten, in which bombs and a bulldozer were used. Further attacks were reported in Tripoli, Benghazi and Misratah. These attacks elicited strong condemnation from the Libyan authorities, including General National Congress President Mr. Mohammad Al-Magariaf, and from Libya's Grand Mufti Al-Sadiq Al-Ghiryani, who stressed that such attacks had no basis in Islam.

The issue of conflict-related detentions in Libya has been particularly salient in briefings and reports to the Council. During August, the prosecutor's office commenced the screening of detainees held in various detention centres in Misratah, leading to the subsequent release of 130 detainees. While this is a positive step, the Ministry of Justice needs to continue its efforts to implement a more systematic, accelerated

approach to the screening of all remaining detainees. UNSMIL continues to urge Libyan authorities to put in place measures to prevent and investigate torture and mistreatment and to devise a prosecutorial strategy to deal with the trials of senior former regime members.

UNSMIL is working closely with the Libyan authorities in the area of judicial reform and is assisting in the re-establishment of the prison system, which is essential for bringing all conflict-related detainees under the authority of the Ministry of Justice, an area where progress has been limited. An effective transitional justice strategy will help consolidate democracy and rebuild trust in State institutions in order to address crimes of the past while promoting effective truth-seeking processes.

As the General National Congress assumes its functions, UNSMIL has begun informal consultations on views regarding United Nations support for Libya's needs based on the principles of national ownership. It appears unlikely that there will be any request for adjustment to the mandate as outlined in resolution 2040 (2012). However, there may be additional requests for support within the mandated areas. UNSMIL and the United Nations country team will continue to use a range of modalities to mobilize a surge capacity of technical expertise to respond accordingly, in line with the mission concept of flexibility.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of UNSMIL and particularly the outgoing Special Representative for his commitment, leadership and outstanding service in this critical period for the Libyan people. As noted, a great deal of work remains to be done, so as we express our appreciation and bid farewell to Ian Martin, the Secretary-General will announce today the appointment of Mr. Tarek Mitri as his replacement. With the support of the Council, Special Representative of the Secretary-General Martin worked tirelessly and courageously in building a strong foundation of United Nations-Libyan cooperation. I am confident that we can count on the Council's strong support for Mr. Mitri and UNSMIL in their work to assist the Libyan people in consolidating and strengthening their democratic transformation.

The President: I thank Mr. Feltman for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Libya.

Mr. Dabbashi (Libya) (spoke in Arabic): At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. President,

on your assumption of the Security Council for this month. I am certain that, under your wise leadership, the Council will achieve success.

I should like to thank Under-Secretary-General Feltman for his exhaustive briefing.

Allow me, on behalf of the Government and people of Libya, to express our profound condolences to the Government of the United States and to the family of Ambassador Stevens, as well as to the families of his colleagues and those of other Libyan victims killed during the attack against the American Consulate in Benghazi. The Government and the National General Congress have condemned that attack, which was carried out by an extremist group acting outside the law. In that regard, I should like to reiterate the condemnation of Libya's authorities of the attack. I also wish to reaffirm the intention of the Libyan Government to pursue the perpetrators and bring them to justice. The attack in no way serves the interests of Libya's people or authorities. It also cannot be considered to have been in defence of Islam; it does great damage to the image of Islam.

I am deeply saddened by the tragic death of Ambassador Stevens. Ambassador Stevens was a marvelous diplomat known for his openness to the Libyan people, whom he held in the highest regard. His death is a great loss for the Libyan people, as it is for his family and for the United States. He was a friend of Libya who always stood shoulder-to-shoulder with us when we faced murder and destruction during the reign of the despot. He genuinely tried to promote relations between our two countries and to help Libyans to move from revolution towards a new State. It is for that reason that Libyans will always remember Ambassador

Stevens as one of Libya's greatest friends who, through his actions and position, helped it to once again assume its place in the international community.

No one can doubt that we in Libya face enormous challenges — including those associated with the State being able to extend its authority throughout its territory and to be able to control all groups. However, this is an interim period. The Libyan people are determined to extend the State's authority throughout the entire country and to form a strong Government that is able to manage the country and bring it from revolution to statehood.

I will not speak at greater length about the attack in Benghazi. An investigation is under way and we will be looking into all the factors that led to this crime. Libyan authorities will announce the results of the investigation and will ensure that anyone responsible for negligence contributing to the attack will be brought to justice. The perpetrators of this heinous crime will be brought to justice.

Libya is party to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. We assume our full responsibility in connection with the protection of diplomatic missions operating in Libya, including the protection of their staff and that of all non-Libyan nationals on Libyan territory. Libyan authorities will not allow any of these outlaws to jeopardize the stability of the country.

The President: There are no more names inscribed on my list of speakers. I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.